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PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE RECORD OF DECISION FOR
SITE 22 GROUNDWATER BURN PAD NWS YORKTOWN VA

10/13/2012
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2 school scores need to improve

By Susan Robertson
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WILLIAMSBURG — Failing to meet all Annual Measurable Objectives means that 485 schools throughout Virginia will be developing school improvement plans. Two WJC schools are among them.

J. Blaine Blayton Elementary and Warhill High both missed meeting the new objectives in one subgroup. So while they are fully accredited by the state, there are still achievement gaps to close. The Annual Measurable Objectives replaced Adequate Yearly Progress as the measure of federal accountability in June when Virginia was granted a flexibility waiver and released from the provisions of No Child Left Behind act.

Blayton Elementary fell short in English for the students in a subgroup designated "Proficiency Gap Group 1," which includes English language learners, students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged students.

Betsy Overkamp-Smith, WJC director of public relations and community engagement, said the group has a 73% pass rate, 3 percentage points shy of the benchmark. She said the score is up from 71% last year but acknowledged there is still work to be done.

Warhill High didn't meet the 85-point benchmark for graduation among black students, falling 17 points short. Students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged subgroups didn't measure up to the 85-point bar either, but the first group was too small to evaluate and the second reduced its failure rate by 10% and received safe harbor.

Overkamp-Smith said for Warhill, division staff will focus on two main factors that could help improve the school's graduation rate. "What will be looked at primarily is credit recovery options for students and providing

more of those opportunities as well as early intervention," she said.

The upshot of trading AYP for AMOs is that D.J. Montague Elementary is no longer on an improvement plan. The school had been on a rollercoaster with the previous federal measure, keeping it in a kind of improvement plan limbo. This year Montague met all AMOs.

Julie Grimes, spokesman for the Virginia Department of Education, said new federal accountability system was designed to place focus on closing the achievement gap, not hitting 100% proficiency by a specific date like its predecessor. One of the biggest difference is the way schools in need of improvement are identified and sanctioned.

Under AYP, missing a single subject category in a single subgroup sent a school into school improvement, but it landed on the same sanction tier as schools that failed to meet benchmarks in multiple categories and subgroups. Instead, schools are put on three tiers.

"Priority" schools are the bottom 5% of all schools in the state. "Focus" schools are the next lowest 10%. Those that miss in one or more categories or subgroups but aren't in the bottom 15% are required to implement an improvement plan.

Blayton and Warhill fall into the last group, but there is a slight difference in their sanctions. Because Blayton is a Title I school receiving federal funding, it must use Indistar, DOE's "web-based tool for assessing, planning, implementing and monitoring progress" toward school improvement, to develop its improvement plan.


Grimes said the Virginia Department of Education is late releasing the list of schools in need of improvement plans because the U.S. Department of Education directed the state to revisit the AMOs in August. Reading scores

from 2010-2011 and math scores from 2011-2012 were used as starting points and scores in some categories were considered to low for significant progress to be achieved over the next six years, so progress intervals were revamped.

Math AMOs are already under consideration by the Virginia Board of Education, which will vote on the benchmarks Oct. 25. Reading AMOs for the next five years will be based on subgroup pass rates for the 2012-13 testing year.


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Public Notice

Record of Decision Available for

Site 22 Groundwater – Burn Pad

Naval Weapons Station Yorktown

The U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for Site 22 Groundwater. This ROD documents the selected cleanup alternative for groundwater, which is issued jointly by the Navy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 with concurrence by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Site 22 is the former location where waste explosives and spent solvents were burned. As a result of these activities, the groundwater has been polluted with explosives and volatile organic compounds. The selected cleanup alternative for Site 22 groundwater consists of treatment through injections of emulsified vegetable oil, groundwater monitoring, and land use controls.

A public comment period on the proposed cleanup plan for Site 22 groundwater was held between May 14 and June, 28, 2012, which included a public meeting on May 24, 2012 to discuss the plan. No negative comments were received during the public comment period.

The Site 22 Groundwater ROD will be available for public viewing for 30 days (October 15 - November 14, 2012) in the York County Public Library at 8500 George Washington Memorial Highway, Yorktown, VA.

All documents that form the basis for selection of the cleanup action are available in the Administrative Record file, which can be accessed on line at <http://go.usa.gov/yFb>.

For more information, contact:

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